

[Letter from Carita Doggett Corse to Harold Spivacke, August 17, 1939]

Works Progress Administration of Florida 49 WEST DUVAL STREET JACKSONVILLE

Roy Schroder State Administrator

August 17, 1939

Dr. Harold Spivacke Chief, Division of Music Library of Congress Washington, D. C.

My dear Dr. Spivacke:

The majority of the field work for a recording of Florida folk songs was done in preparation for the visit of Herbert Halpert of the Federal Theatre Project in June of this year. His trip was cut short so that only a few of these recordings were made. Zora Neale Hurston completed contacts for Negro recordings at the turpentine camp in Cross City and in Tampa before she was called to Philadelphia.

A report on the types of songs and locations was submitted to the WPA Folk Arts Coordinating Committee in Washington, copies of which are enclosed. One of these reports is by Stetson Kennedy now with the Florida Music Project, whose reports on Florida folklore were especially commended by the Folk Arts Committee. His opportunity to study Cuban folklore is good due to his wife's family connections in the Latin colony at Tampa. It is our plan to give him responsibility for explanatory matter and for such supplementary information as should accompany the songs.

Bob Cook, with the Federal Writers' Project, is a radio technician, and has operated such machines. He is to run the machine and assist in the interviews. He was present when Mr.

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Halpert made the recordings in Jacksonville, and took notes on the types of questions to ask the singers.

As to the selection of songs, we are using Mr. Alton Morris, editor of Southern Folklore Quarterly, as consultant on songs by native whites; Zora Hurston will continue to act as our consultant on Negro songs. We are forwarding to her check lists of any Negro songs we find, so that she may make the selections.

As you surmised, we were confused by Presto labels on the packages of records which were from the Library of Congress. Attached 2 is copy of shipping order on the needles.

Regarding continuation of the Florida Writers' Project, our project proposal has been signed by the State WPA Administrator and is now in Washington. As soon as I know it has been approved, in accordance with your suggestion, I will make the request for extension of time limit on the use of the machine through the proper WPA channels.

I trust this information will reassure you as to the precautions we are taking on use of the machine and records. However, if there are any instructions you wish to give us, we will be very glad to comply with them.

Sincerely yours, Carita Doggett Corse
Carita Doggett Corse
State Director Federal Writers' Project

CDC:dw Encl. 2

P. S. Due to the bulkiness of the reports to the WPA Folk Arts Coordinating Committee in Washington, we are mailing these separately.

COPY

NO. 43894

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DISC SHIPPING ORDER

PRESTO RECORDING CORPORATION 242 W. 55th St., N. Y. C.

Cust. Order No. Telegram

DATE 8/7

SHIP TO Dr. Carita Doggett Corse State Director, Federal Writers' Project 49 W. Duval St.,
Jacksonville, Fla.

BILL TO Library of Congress Lenn R. Blanchard Wash D. C.

SALESMAN U. S. Discount

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